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A "POTLATCH" AMONG OUR WEST COAST INDIANS.

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SOME readers of a Canadian magazine may have become acquainted with the Red man as he appears upon his reserves of land throughout Ontario ; but from that they can form no correct idea of his habits, polity, pastimes, and eccentric conduct generally, upon the Pacific coast of the Dominion. After being accustomed to see the Iroquois and kindred tribes, one cannot avoid contrasting their very form and appearance with the characteristics of the West Coast natives. The latter have broad, flat-heads, set upon rather undersized bodies, which in their turn are supported by apologies for legs. The art of distortion has given shape to the head by means of continued pressure ; while the art of navigation has for generations lessened the necessity for using the legs wherever the paddle could be made to do their work.

The native American denizens of the wood, the plain, or the mountain, seem to

possess a more gainly frame and countenance than their fellow savages whose home is among the countless islands of the North Pacific Coast. Deer and buffalo furnish a more substantial article of diet than clams and salmon ; and the efforts employed in the capture and assimilation of the one class of provisions may be more conducive to a good physical development than the simpler methods of securing the other. In April of this year there was a most favourable opportunity for observing the characteristics of the "Flat-Heads of the Pacific Coast," while engaged in carrying out an ancient and laudable custom. The rank of Ty-ee, or Chief, is still an object of lofty ambition among these people, although the temporal power attached to the office seems to be fast waning under the light of civil government and British laws. There may be some sort of hereditary claim to the rank, such as will give a son the first right to show himself a